



GEOGRAPHY FIRST SERIES BOOK ONE

# Six children from far-away lands

ARCHER/THOMAS





North

*This is where  
AHMAD lives*

*This is where  
HIRFA lives*

West

East

*This is where  
BOMBO lives*

*This is Bengal  
where ROSHIK lives*

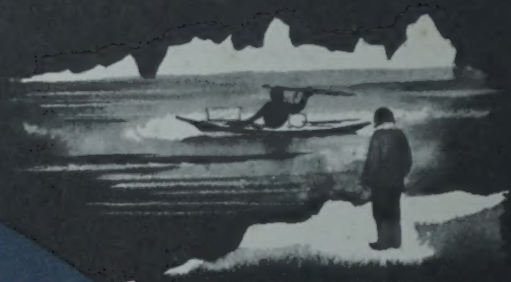
South



This picture of the globe shows where BOMBO,  
HIRFA, AHMAD, and ROSHIK live



North



*This is Baffin  
Island where  
TOOKTOO lives*



East

*This is the  
high plateau  
where PEDRO lives*

South

Here is another picture of the globe which shows  
where TOOKTOO and PEDRO live



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# Geography

## First Series

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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF  
WORLD CULTURE

BANGALORE

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## FOREWORD

This is the first of a series of four books designed to introduce children to geography in a friendly, informal way, and to put at their disposal a means of discovering the simpler geographic facts and relationships.

In all the books the emphasis is on people—how they live and why they live as they do. There is no parade of factual material to be memorized; no attempt to build up a series of books which will fit nicely into the arid “formal development” of a happily out-moded day. On the contrary, the authors use the story-book method to bring into juxtaposition facts of geography and facts of human life and activities between which the pupils can clearly discern the relationships. In short, the books expose the children to the stimulating contagion of learning, rather than impose upon them the dull routine of being taught.

Pictures play a vital part in each book. They have been selected and prepared, not as mere embellishments of the pages, but as definite visual aids to learning. The globes and maps have a similar function. Confusion of names has been rigidly avoided, each globe or map carrying only the data necessary for its particular objective. There are no formal map studies of the type which, from a child's point of view, have no *raison d'être*. Wherever, in the course of the text, a globe or map can contribute to the learning process, directions or suggestions for using it are given in a guise which transforms the children into explorers and the map studies into adventures in discovery.

A full discussion of the principles and methods underlying FIRST SERIES is contained in a pamphlet entitled *Teaching Geography* by H. G. Thomas.

In this first book the pupils make their acquaintance with six different types of geographic environment, all of which are in sharp contrast with their own. It is a book for little folks; hence each story centres in an individual child. His food, his clothes, his home, and his work and play are all described in the light of their relationship to his geographic environment. Only to a slight degree do the stories go beyond the family unit, because it is primarily the family, rather than the community, of which pupils of this age are conscious.

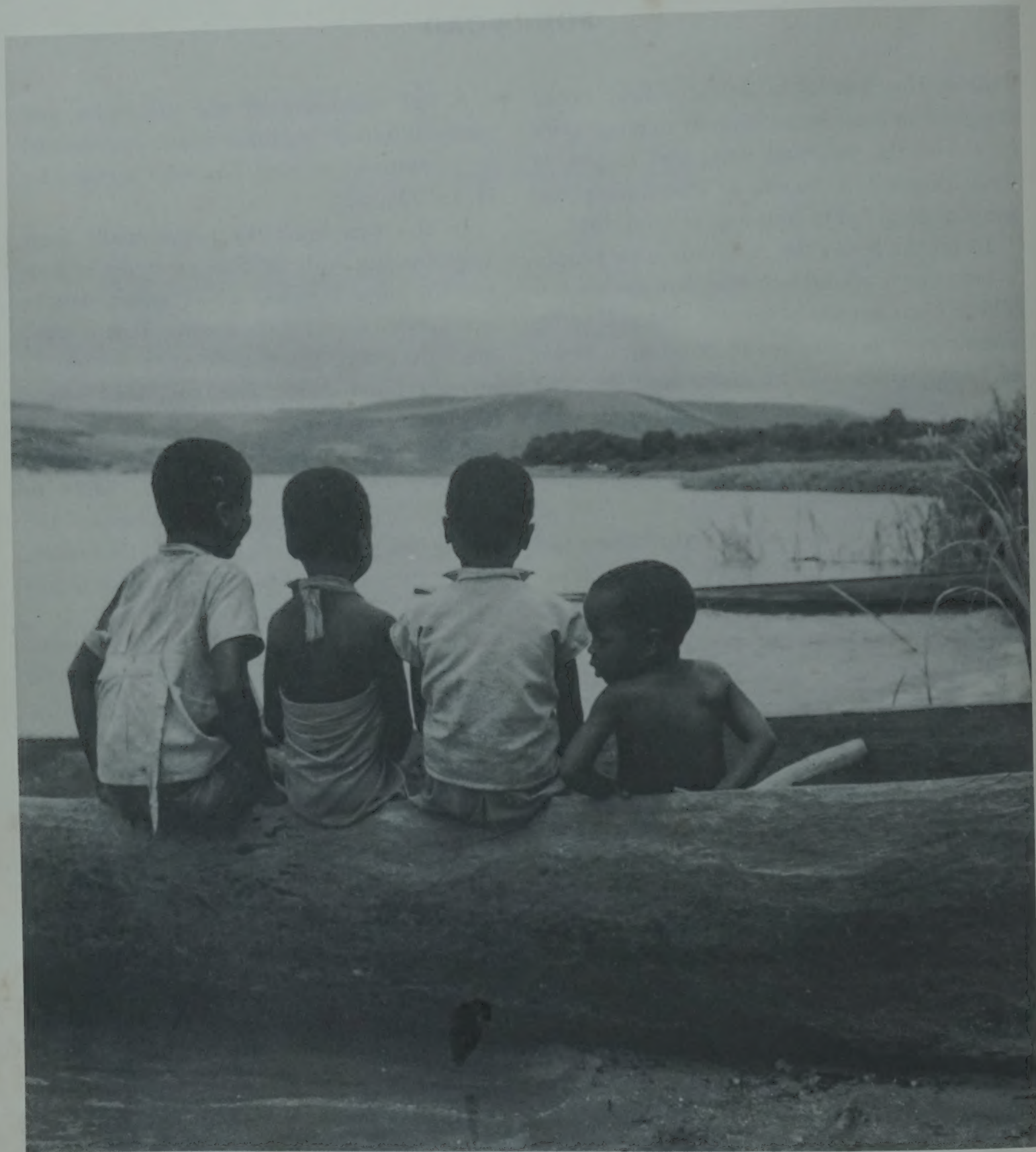
The authors are firm believers in the principle that knowledge once acquired should be used to solve new problems. Consequently, in each new place visited, frequent reference is made to things observed elsewhere, and the pupils are encouraged to work out the cause-and-effect relationships which comprise the simpler elements of human geography.

At intervals throughout the book there are things to do and questions to be answered which require a certain amount of simple reasoning. The teacher will not expect all the questions to be answered correctly at the first attempt. He will be satisfied if, as the year goes on, his pupils develop a growing ability to “put two and two together” towards an elementary understanding of human-geographic relationships.

A. B. ARCHER

H. G. THOMAS





*SOME OF BOMBO'S FRIENDS*





*Bombo lives in a little village in a far-away land*

## 1. BOMBO

**A boy who has never heard of winter**

The little boy in the picture is named Bombo. Bombo's skin is dark because he is a Negro boy. He lives in a country where nearly all the people are Negroes.

Notice how Bombo is dressed.

Do you think the picture was taken on a warm or a cold day?

Bombo never needs any more clothing than he has on in the picture. He has never seen any ice or snow. He has never even shivered in a cold wind. Where





*A bridge of poles in the forest*

he lives the weather is hot the whole year long, hotter than our weather is in summer. Bombo has never heard of winter.

Bombo's house is one of the little huts in the picture on page 5. Bombo's father built the hut himself. He cut the wood in the forest and thatched the roof with palm leaves. Can you find some palm trees in the picture?

The warm land where Bombo lives is far, far away. His village is near a broad, muddy river that flows through a thick forest. The name of the river is the Congo. It is one of the longest rivers in all the world.

### **The great forest**

All round Bombo's village is the great forest. The trees are very close together. They are very tall, too, and their leafy tops meet high overhead. In some places the tree-tops make such a thick roof of leaves that they shut out all the sun. In places like that the forest is dark and damp. But in most places there are openings in the leafy roof which let a little sunshine through.

Vines that climb up from the ground wind round the tree trunks and hang in great loops from the

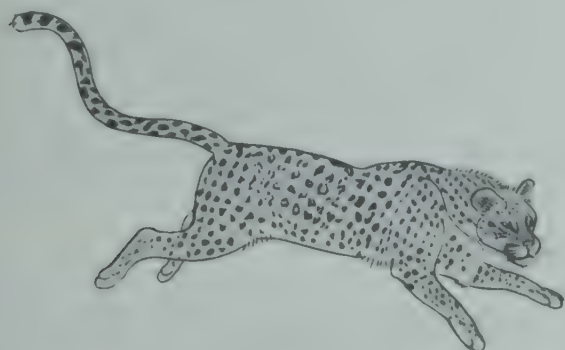


*African elephants are dangerous*

branches. Bright flowers grow on the vines, and birds with gay feathers fly from tree to tree.



Except where there are foot-paths, it is very hard to walk in the forest. That is because the ground is covered with bushes and creeping vines. If Bombo's people wish to make a new path, they have to cut away the bushes and vines with sharp hatchets.



*The leopard is another dangerous animal*

Bombo never goes far into the forest, for there are leopards, elephants, and other wild animals there. When he goes out on the river in a canoe, he often sees a great hippopotamus or a hungry crocodile. Have you ever seen any of these animals at the Zoo?

#### **Do you know**

1. Why Bombo has never heard of winter?
2. What river is near his village?
3. Why it is not safe for Bombo to go far into the great forest?
4. Why some parts of the forest are dark and damp?

#### **Finding Bombo's home**

Perhaps you have heard people say that we live on the *earth*. The earth is a huge ball. It is so big that all you can see of it at one time is the tiny bit round about you.

If you have a globe in your classroom, you know that it shows the shape of our big, round earth. At the front and back of this book you will find pictures of a globe. In the left-hand picture you can find the place where Bombo lives.



*Hippopotamuses like to lie in the water*

You can see that Bombo's home is in a very large piece of land named Africa. We call the very large pieces of land on the earth *continents*. Bombo lives in the continent of Africa.





*A passenger boat on the Congo River*

Look again at the picture of the globe. Find the British Isles, where we live. They are near the continent of Europe.

You can see that the British Isles are rather small pieces of land with water all round them. A piece of land with water all round it is an *island*. "Isle" is just a shorter word for "island".

Bombo's home in Africa is so far from our own country that unless we fly it will take us three or four weeks to get there.

#### Can you tell

1. What a continent is?
2. What an island is?
3. What continent Bombo lives in?
4. What continent is near our own British Isles?

#### A trip up the Congo River

Let us make believe that we are on our way to visit Bombo. We are travelling up the Congo River in a boat like the one in the picture. The air is so hot that our thinnest clothes are too warm.

The forest on either side of the river looks like a thick, green wall. If we sail close to one of the banks, perhaps we shall see some monkeys swinging from branch to branch among the trees.



*Watch out for the sleepy-looking crocodiles!*

The animals lying half out of water along the banks of the river are crocodiles. Their eyes are closed, but they are not asleep. They are ready to make a meal of anyone who is unlucky enough to fall into the river.





*Bombo and his friends are enjoying a bathe in a stream that is too small for crocodiles*

Each morning a warm, moist fog hangs over the river, but it soon clears away and the hot sun beats down on us. Almost every afternoon there is a thunderstorm. For an hour or so the rain pours down from the black clouds. When the sun comes out again, the air is so steamy that it feels hotter than ever.

On our way up the river we shall see some villages like the one where Bombo lives. The people of these villages are all Negroes like Bombo and his neighbours.

Very likely we shall see some of the men and boys paddling in the canoes that they use for getting

about on the water. These little boats are called dugouts, for they are made by hollowing out logs cut from tree trunks.

### **Some things to do**

1. Draw pictures of some of the animals in the Congo forest.
2. Tell what kind of boats Bombo's people use on the Congo River. Draw a picture of one of them.
3. Say how you think Bombo's people get logs to make their canoes.
4. Pretend that you are really travelling up the Congo River. Tell about the interesting sights along the way.

*A glimpse of a Congo village on a foggy morning*







*The girls are playing a game with a ball in the village street*

### **In Bombo's village**

Here we are in Bombo's village. It is a hot, sunny morning. Bombo and his friends are playing games in the village street, the girls in one group and the boys in another. They are in no danger of being run over by a motor-car, for the nearest motor-road is many miles away. Very few of the children have ever been far enough from home to see a motor-car.

Bombo's father and some of the other men have gone hunting in the forest. They left at sunrise. Some of them took bows and arrows with them, and others took spears. Only two of them had

guns. Bombo hopes they will have good luck, for he would like some meat for supper to-night.

Further down the street some men are weaving fish-nets of strong cord. The picture shows how nets are used to catch fish in the rivers. If the fishing is good, the net will be well filled when the men pull it up. Bombo's people also fish with traps and scoops, and sometimes poles and lines.

The men in Bombo's village do not hunt and fish just for sport. They hunt and fish to get food for their families. Hunting and fishing, are ways in which they work for their living.



### Gardening in the forest

The mothers, as well as the fathers, help in getting the food. They have small gardens where they grow manioc, bananas, and vegetables.

Manioc is a plant which grows in the hot, rainy parts of the earth. Bombo's mother grows it for the roots. She dries the roots and then pounds them into coarse flour. Sometimes she grinds the powdered manioc to make the flour finer. Bombo has never heard of wheat flour such as we use to make white bread. But he could tell you all about manioc flour and manioc bread.

Gardening in the Congo forest is quite different from our gardening at home. Bombo's mother

has no gardening tools, not even a spade. She digs up the ground with a stout stick. With a smaller stick she makes holes for the seeds. Then she drops the seeds in the holes, and covers them with earth with her hands.

Bombo's mother does not have to plant her seeds at any special time of year. She can plant them at any time because the weather is always warm. As soon as she gathers all her manioc, or beans, or sweet potatoes, she plants more. So she goes on gardening the whole year round.

This morning Bombo's mother and sister are busy weeding their garden. The heat and dampness make the plants grow fast. They make the weeds grow fast, too.

*The nets are lowered into the water to catch the fish*



*Hunting with bow and arrow*





If the weeds were not pulled up every few days, there would be no room for the plants to grow.

Some of the women and girls are picking beans. Others are digging sweet potatoes or manioc roots. At noon they will all come home with garden stuff in their arms or in baskets on their backs.

### **If you were Bombo**

1. Would you want your father to be a good hunter and fisherman? Why?
2. Would you want your mother to have a good garden? Why?
3. Why could you have food from your mother's garden the whole year round?
4. Would you need much clothing? Why not?

*Here is Bombo's mother coming home from her garden*



### **The useful oil palms**

Bombo's grown-up brother is climbing an oil-palm tree. There are many of these oil palms round the village. Near the top of each one grows a large cluster of fruit. It looks something like a bunch of grapes, only very much larger.

Bombo's brother cuts off the huge cluster of fruit with a sharp knife, and it falls to the ground. When he has gathered the clusters from several trees, Bombo helps him to carry them to the house.

Each fruit is about the size of a date and has a thin skin. Inside, round the hard nut, or stone, is the pulp of the fruit. The pulp is soft and very oily.

*In this picture she is pounding manioc*





Bombo's brother throws the clusters of fruit into a large trough made of a hollow log. Then he and Bombo trample on them to squeeze the oil out of the pulp.

What do you suppose the oil is good for? Bombo likes it as well as you like butter. His people do not have any butter because they do not keep any cows. Palm oil takes the place of butter for their bread and of fat for their cooking.

The nuts have oil in them, too. Bombo's brother spreads them out on the ground to dry in the sun. Next week Bombo's father will take the nuts to a trading-station down the river. He will go in his canoe. Perhaps he will take Bombo with him.

The trading-station is a place where the people of the villages round about buy and sell things. The trader who looks after it is a white man from Europe.

The trader is always ready to buy palm nuts from Bombo's people, because he can send them to Europe and sell them there. In Europe the nuts are crushed to squeeze out the oil. The oil is used to make soap and candles.

Bombo's father does not sell his



*Bombo's brother is climbing an oil-palm tree*

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palm nuts for money. He exchanges them for things that he needs but cannot make himself. On this trip he is going to get some bright-coloured cotton cloth for a dress for Bombo's mother, and a new hatchet for himself.

Oil and nuts are only two of the useful things that Bombo's people get from the oil palms. They use the wood for building their houses, and the leaves for



thatching the roofs. From the leaf fibres they weave mats, baskets, and some of their fish-nets. The oil palms are a great help to them.



*Here is a picture of Bombo's little house*

### **Bombo's house**

When it begins to rain in the afternoon, we are glad to accept Bombo's invitation to come into his house. What a surprise we have when we get inside!

There is no furniture, not even a chair to sit on. The beds are piles of leaves laid on the ground, and covered with mats woven of palm fibres. Hanging on pegs in the wall are a few cooking pots and some baskets. Bombo's

mother keeps her supplies of food in the baskets.

The walls are made of strips of wood, and the cracks are plastered with mud.

The light is dim, for there is only one small window. We are glad to get out-of-doors once more when the shower is over.

We should think this a very poor house, but it is all that Bombo needs. It would be foolish to build a house with thick walls and fireplaces in a land where the weather is always warm.

What Bombo's people need most is a steep, well-thatched roof, so that the rain will run off quickly. Bombo sleeps in his house at night, but he never stays indoors in the daytime except when it rains.

### **Bombo has his supper**

Late in the afternoon Bombo's father and the other fathers come home from their hunting trip. The children race down the village street to meet them. How glad they are when they see the two wild pigs which their fathers have killed! They like wild-pig meat as much as some other children like roast beef or lamb.



About sunset the mothers build wood fires in front of their houses, and begin to get supper. Bombo's mother is cooking a stew of wild-pig meat and vegetables. It smells so good that Bombo can hardly wait to taste it.

While the stew is cooking, Bombo's mother makes dough out of manioc flour. She wraps the dough in damp banana leaves and lays it in the fire. When it has baked long enough, she will pour palm oil over it. This will be Bombo's bread and butter for supper. If Bombo is still hungry after he has eaten his stew and manioc bread, he can have a banana.

### Some things to do

1. Tell why the oil palms are so useful to Bombo's people.
2. Draw a picture of Bombo's house.
3. Tell what kinds of food Bombo's mother gives him to eat.

### Children who do not go to school

Bombo and the other children do not go to school, for there is no teacher in the village, and the nearest town where they could go to school is too far away. Perhaps they will never learn to read or write. But they are learning other things that will help them to make their living in the great forest when they grow up.

*Bombo's mother is grinding pounded manioc on a stone to make finer flour for the bread*







*Bombo is hoping to catch some fish to carry home*

Bombo has a little bow and some arrows, and some small spears. His father made them for him. Nearly every day he practises shooting the arrows and throwing the spears. He knows how to fish with a pole and line, and soon he will be old enough to help with the nets. Bombo wants to be a good hunter and fisherman like his father when he grows up.

Bombo's sister is learning to help her mother in the daily work. She is becoming a good gardener, and she will soon be able to cook almost as well as her mother.

The children of the Congo forest have no toys like yours, but they are happy just the same. They run and jump and play games, and have just as much fun

as you do. They like their homes in the forest so well that they would not care to live anywhere else.

### **Can you answer these questions?**

1. How is the weather in the Congo different from our weather?
2. Why doesn't Bombo know what winter is?
3. What could you tell Bombo about our weather that would surprise him?
4. Why do you wear different kinds of clothes at different times of the year?
5. Why doesn't Bombo do the same?
6. Do you think he would like to wear clothes like yours? Why not?
7. Where does your food come from?
8. Does Bombo get his food in the same ways that you do?
9. Why does his father need to be a good hunter and fisherman?
10. What kinds of food would Bombo have to go without if his mother did not have a garden?
11. What kind of house does Bombo live in?
12. Why do you and Bombo live in different kinds of houses?
13. Do you think Bombo would be any happier if he had a house like yours?
14. How do people travel on the Congo River?
15. Why has Bombo never seen a motor-car?
16. What could you tell Bombo about our country that would surprise him?





*Tooktoo and his little brother in front of their tupik*

## 2. TOOKTOO

A boy who wears furs all the year round Tooktoo is an Eskimo boy. He lives in the Far North. Here is a picture of Tooktoo and his little brother. The picture was taken on a summer day.

You can see that the two boys are dressed in fur clothes. What does this make you think about

the summer weather in the Far North?

The tent in the picture is Tooktoo's house in the summer-time. It is made of sealskins sewn together and stretched over a framework of poles. Tooktoo and his brother call it a tupik, for that is their word for tent.





*A summer day on Baffin Island. Do you see the snow on the hillside?*

The winter in the Far North is very cold, and it lasts more than half the year. Deep snow covers the ground, the rivers freeze over, and thick, rough ice forms on the bays.

In the winter Tooktoo wears two suits of fur clothes, one over the other. His winter house is made of snow. Strange as it may seem, the snow house is snug and warm when the weather outside is bitterly cold.

#### **Tooktoo's island home**

Tooktoo lives on an island just as you and I do. How different

it is from the British Isles! There are no towns or cities or roads on Tooktoo's island. There are no farms or gardens or pasture land. There are not even any trees.

Moss and heather grow on some of the hills on Tooktoo's island. In the summer there are patches of grass and bright-coloured flowers here and there. But there are miles and miles of bare rock, and in some places the snowdrifts never melt away.

Can you think of any reason why Tooktoo's island home is so different from the British Isles?



It is because his island is in a part of the earth that is so very cold. It is too cold for any trees or crops to grow. It is so cold that only a few people live there. All the people are Eskimos like Tooktoo and his family.

The name of Tooktoo's island is Baffin Island. Like our own British Isles, it is near a much larger piece of land. The larger piece of land is the continent of North America. Find North America and Baffin Island in the right-hand picture of the globe at the front or back of this book.



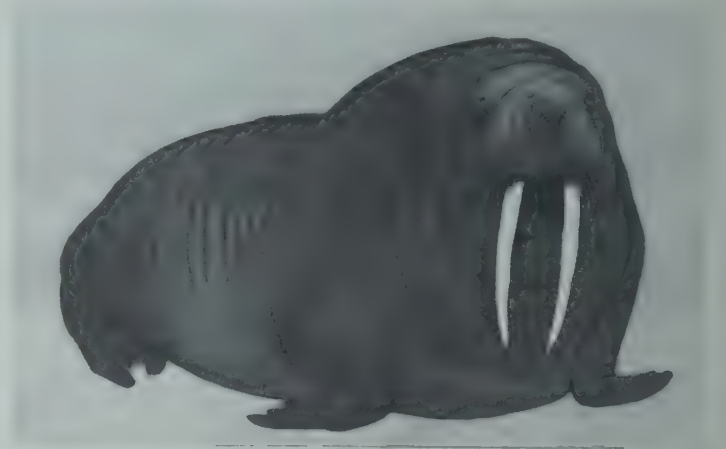
*Polar bears have thick coats of white fur*

### **Do you know**

1. What people live on Baffin Island?
2. Why Tooktoo wears fur clothes?
- 3. Why there are no trees on Baffin Island?

### **Some animals that Tooktoo knows**

Tooktoo has never tasted beef or mutton or fowl. He has never even seen a cow, or a sheep, or a chicken. These farm animals, which give us much of our food, cannot live in the Far North. The weather is too cold for them.



*Walrus like to sleep on floating ice*

The animals that Tooktoo knows are the wild ones that live on the land and in the sea in the Far North. You can learn what some of them are by looking at the pictures in this story.

Tooktoo's people eat the meat and the fat of these animals. They make their summer clothes of sealskins, and their winter clothes of deerskins and bearskins. They get nearly everything that they eat and wear and many of the things they use by hunting the wild animals.





*Here is Tooktoo's father throwing his spear*

### **Tooktoo tells about seals and walrus**

Here are some things that Tooktoo would like to tell you about seals and walrus.

“Seals live in the water. They swim under water like fish, but they cannot breathe there. Every little while they have to raise their heads out of the water to get a breath of air.

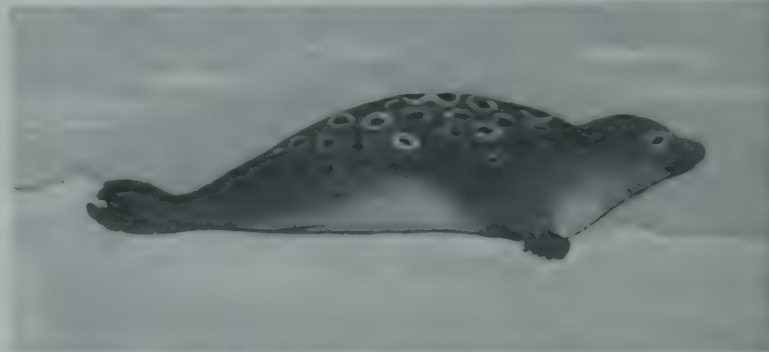
“When your father takes you seal-hunting, you must wait very quietly until you see a seal's nose. Sometimes you have to wait a long time without moving the least little bit. If you move, you may scare a seal away, and your father will send you home.

“The minute your father sees a seal, he throws his spear at it. The spear point goes deep into

the seal's neck. The spear has a long rope fastened to it. Your father pulls the seal out of the water with the rope. Then you help your father to drag the seal home, and you have seal meat for supper.

“Walrus are much larger than seals. They have long, white tusks. They swim in the water, and they like to sleep on the cakes of floating ice.

“When your father goes out walrus-hunting on the bay, he takes his strongest spear and his



*Seals are sea animals*

gun. You cannot kill a walrus with one throw of a spear. You only hurt him, and that makes him savage. He fights fiercely with his sharp tusks. Sometimes a hunter is killed by a walrus.”

### **Something to do**

Draw pictures of some of the animals that Tooktoo knows.





*Why would an Eskimo family rather have a good team of dogs than a motor-car?*

#### **A summer afternoon with Tooktoo**

Try to imagine that it is July, and that you are spending an afternoon with Tooktoo. His people have put up their tupiks on the shore of a bay. They are camping there for a few days.

The bay is as blue as the sky, and there are cakes of ice floating on it. A chilly wind is blowing, and each dancing wave has a little white cap.

Only the women and children are at home this afternoon. Tooktoo's mother and the other women are sitting together in the sunshine with their sewing. They are all busily at work

making winter clothes for their families out of the fur-covered skins of animals.

Some of the children are playing with the dogs. Each Eskimo family has a team of dogs to draw their sledges over the snow and ice in the winter. Tooktoo's father has eight strong dogs and some roly-poly puppies.

Tooktoo and two other boys are playing at seal-hunting. A skin bag stuffed with heather is their seal, and they are throwing toy spears at it. This is good practice for boys who will be hunters when they grow up. It is good fun, too.





*Would you like to try paddling an Eskimo kayak?*

The older boys and girls are down by the water looking for driftwood. They gather every piece of wood that comes drifting in on the waves. This is the only way by which the Eskimos can get any wood. Can you explain why?

#### **Tooktoo's father brings home a walrus**

Tooktoo's father and the other men are out in their kayaks hunting walrus. A kayak is a long narrow canoe. It is made of sealskins stretched tightly over

a framework of driftwood. In the centre is a round opening just big enough for one man.

Tooktoo's father has killed a walrus, and now the other men are helping him to tow it home. Here they come, paddling towards the shore. All the children are running down to the beach to meet them.

The men drag the great walrus out of the water and cut it up. Under the skin is a thick layer of blubber, or fat. The blubber will furnish oil for the lamps in Tooktoo's winter house, and food for the family to eat. The Eskimos use seal blubber in the same ways. Eskimo children like blubber as much as you like sweets.

Under the blubber is the flesh, or meat. Tooktoo's father gives every family a large slice of the meat. That makes everyone happy, for a supper of walrus meat is a great treat.

Tooktoo's mother puts the rest of the meat away under a big mound of stones, where it will freeze and keep from spoiling. This is the Eskimo way of storing up meat for the winter.

The thick hide, or skin, of the walrus is useful too. It makes strong leather for dog harness, whips, buckets, and other things that the Eskimos need.

### Summer travels

Tooktoo's people do not live in the same place all the summer. They camp in one place as long as the hunting is good there. Then they take down their tupiks and move to another place.

They do most of their summer travelling on the water. Not so long ago they used home-made boats of walrus hide. Nowadays they have boats that they have bought from traders who come to Baffin Island in the summer.

Each boat has a sail, and some have motors, for petrol too can be bought from the traders. But the Eskimos do not often have enough petrol to carry them very far, so they sail when they can and save the petrol for times when there is no breeze.

When Tooktoo's people move they pack all their things in the boats. The women and children and the dogs squeeze into the space that is left. One man goes



*One of the boats for summer travels along the shore*

in each boat to manage the sail or run the motor. The other men go in their kayaks.

Sometimes the boat trip takes a whole day. When the Eskimos reach another good hunting place they go ashore and put up their tupiks. In an hour's time they are settled in a new camp.

### Can you tell

1. Why all the Eskimo fathers must be good hunters?
2. Why they try to kill as many seals and walrus as they can?
3. Why the Eskimos move so often in the summer?
4. How they travel when they move?
5. Why tents are the best kind of summer houses for them?
6. What they call their tents? their canoes?





*This picture of the sun was taken from the deck of a ship at midnight in July in the Far North*

### **Summer day and winter night**

Do you remember how long the days were last summer? How hard it was to go to bed while it was still light!

In Tooktoo's land the summer is short and chilly, but the summer days are even longer than ours. For almost two months the sun never sets. Day after day it moves round and round the sky in a circle, but it never sinks out of sight. These months of daylight are called the "summer day".

In the winter there are nearly two months of darkness. During all that time the sun never rises. It is deep twilight all day long and bitterly cold. Only when the

moon is shining is there light enough to see any distance. These months of darkness are called the "winter night".

Which do you suppose Tooktoo likes better, the summer day or the winter night?

### **Getting ready for winter**

All the summer the Eskimos are busy getting ready for winter. The men go hunting every day. They hunt the seals and the



*Tooktoo's father has just pulled ashore a polar bear which he has killed on a hunting-trip*

walrus and the polar bears. They must get all the meat and blubber and skins that they can. If they were lazy in the summer, their families would be cold and hungry in the winter.



*The Eskimos are tramping to the hills to hunt caribou*



*This is the way the babies ride*

Every summer Tooktoo's people go off to the hills for a week or two to hunt caribou. Caribou are wild reindeer. On these trips the Eskimos tramp miles and miles over the rocky ground. The fathers and mothers carry the tents and blankets on their backs.

If the hunting is good, Tooktoo's people come back to the shore loaded with bundles of meat and deerskins. Even the children and the dogs have little bundles strapped on their backs.

The women are as busy in summer as the men. They clean and dry the sealskins and the deerskins. They make all the boots and clothes for their families. They must have all the winter clothing ready before the cold weather comes.

• Tooktoo's mother has made him two deerskin suits lined with

fur. He will wear both suits at the same time, one with the fur turned in, and the other with the fur turned out. The jacket to the outer suit has a hood which fits closely round Tooktoo's head.

His deerskin stockings will come well above his knees, and over them he will wear a pair of fur-lined socks. His trousers will be tucked into knee-boots made of heavy sealskin, and there will be warm fur mittens for his hands. Dressed in these clothes, Tooktoo will not mind the winter cold.

### **Some things to do**

1. Draw a picture of Tooktoo's tupik or his father's kayak.
2. Say what you would like best to do if you were spending your summer holidays with Tooktoo on Baffin Island.
3. Write a few sentences about Tooktoo's winter clothes.





*Tooktoo's father cuts blocks of snow with a knife and fits them together to build the igloo*

### **Building the winter houses**

Summer is over, and winter has begun. The days are very short now, and the nights are very long. Tooktoo's people are cold in their tupiks, and as soon as there is a heavy snowstorm they will build their igloos. The igloos are their winter houses.

The pictures show Tooktoo's father building his igloo. It is made of blocks of solidly frozen snow. When it is finished it will look like a great white bowl turned upside down. Tooktoo helps his father by packing all the cracks with soft snow. The snow freezes in the cracks and keeps out the wind.

How do you think Tooktoo's father makes a window for the igloo? He cuts a square hole high up in the side. Into the hole he fits a piece of thick, clear

ice. Then he packs the edges of the ice-window with snow, which will freeze and hold it fast.

Inside the igloo Tooktoo's father builds some benches of frozen snow. Tooktoo's mother covers the benches with heather, and then throws deerskin blankets over them. Covered in this way, the snow benches make very good seats and beds.

The igloo needs a lining so that when it is warmed by the blubber lamps the inside will not melt and drip. For a lining Tooktoo's father uses an old sealskin tupik covering.

When Tooktoo's father has finished the igloo, he adds a smaller snow house as a sort of porch. This is used as a storeroom. The meat and blubber are kept there, and the dog harness, and the spears and other things that

Tooktoo's father uses when he goes hunting.

Tooktoo's mother will hang a curtain of bearskin or walrus hide over the entrance to the porch to help in keeping out the cold. Another help is the size of the opening from the porch into the main part of the igloo. It is so small that the grown-ups have to stoop low to get through it.

Tooktoo is always happy when the igloo is finished. He knows that the blubber lamps will warm it, and that the thick snow walls will keep the heat inside. No matter how cold the winter may be, he will be snug in his little snow house, safe from the storms and the cold.

### Something to explain

The Eskimos in some parts of the Far North have igloos built of stones or of sods for winter houses. Those who live in snow igloos, as Tooktoo's people do, have to build new houses every winter. Can you explain why?

### Winter work and play

The winter weather is so cold that if Tooktoo stays out-of-doors too long his nose is likely to be frozen. On very stormy days not even grown-ups can go out.

In spite of the cold, the men go hunting and fishing whenever they can. The meat and blubber that they got in the summer will not last the winter through. They must get more food or their families will go hungry.

*Here is the hole for the window*

*The igloo is finished and Tooktoo and his family have moved in*







*This is the Eskimo way of fishing*

When Tooktoo's father goes fishing, he takes a spear with him. He does not put any bait on the bone hook that is tied to the end of his fishing-line. He just lowers the hook into the water and keeps moving it slowly up and down until a fish comes along to see what it is. Then he spears the fish and lifts it out of the water.

On their hunting-trips the men use their dog sledges. The dogs race over the snow and the men run behind, cracking their whips. If they have good luck, the sledges are loaded with meat and blubber when they come home.

There are other trips when the men go off to trap white foxes, for the traders pay well for the fur-



*This is the Eskimo way of cooking*

covered skins. The foxes are trapped in the winter because that is when their fur is thickest.

The women are busy, too. They do the cooking, and they pound blubber to get oil for the lamps. The lamps are pieces of stone hollowed out to hold the oil. In the picture Tooktoo's mother is melting snow in a dish that hangs above the lamp. When the water from the snow is hot enough, Tooktoo's mother will use it in making a meat stew.

The women keep the lamps burning night and day to warm the igloos. They mend all the boots and clothes, and make new ones when the old ones wear out. There is always work to be done in this cold land.

In good weather the children play out-of-doors. What fun they have snow-balling and coasting down the hills on their sledges! What fun it is to build little igloos and play at houses, or to harness the puppies to the sledges and go off on make-believe hunting-trips!

Tooktoo likes the evenings in the igloo almost as well as the days of outdoor play. Evening is story-telling time. The stories that Tooktoo likes best are the ones which his father tells about the wild animals of the Far North.

*Here are two Eskimo children dressed for outdoor play in the winter*



*The trading-station is a busy place in summer*

### **See if you can tell why**

1. Tooktoo does not eat vegetables and fruit as Bombo does.
2. He cannot play out-of-doors every day as Bombo can.
3. His mother does not cook over a wood fire as Bombo's mother does.

### **The end of winter**

When Tooktoo's igloo begins to melt, he knows that winter is over and spring has come. His people are waiting for the ice to break up on the bay. Then they will pack their things in their boats and start on their summer wanderings. They will travel slowly, hunting as they go. In July they will reach a trading-station on the coast. The traders have come and the Eskimos gather from near and far to do business with them.





*Tooktoo's father selling his foxskins*

The trading-station belongs to an English fur company. Every summer the traders come north to get the fur-covered skins of animals that the Eskimos have killed in the winter.

Tooktoo's people have some foxskins to sell. In exchange they want guns and a few other things that they need, but cannot make for themselves. Tooktoo's father is getting a new gun this year. Tooktoo is hoping for a little knife all his own.

When the trading is over the Eskimos will be off again on their summer travels. Now that you have been round the year with Tooktoo's people, can you explain why they have to work harder than Bombo's people do?

### Something to do

Pretend that you are an Eskimo child. Choose one of these subjects and write a few sentences about it:

1. How we build our igloos.
2. How my father hunts seals.
3. How my father catches fish.
4. How I play in the winter-time.

### Can you answer these questions?

1. How is the weather in the Far North different from our weather?
2. How do Tooktoo's people get food?
3. Why have they no farms or vegetable gardens?
4. Why doesn't Tooktoo drink milk as you do?
5. What kind of clothes do the Eskimos wear, and why?
6. How do they get the materials to make their clothes?
7. Why do they live in different kinds of houses at different times of year?
8. How do they travel in the summer-time? in the winter-time?
9. Do you think that Tooktoo's father would exchange his dogs and his sledge for a motor-car? Why not?
10. How do the Eskimos get the materials to make their tupiks and their kayaks?
11. Why do Tooktoo's people not live in one place all the time?
12. Why are hunting and fishing the only ways by which they can make their living in the Far North?



*Hirfa and her family live in a tent in the bare, treeless desert*

### 3. HIRFA

1589

#### **A little girl who rides on a camel**

Hirfa lives in a warm part of the earth. It is almost as warm as Bombo's land, but Hirfa's home is not a rainy land like Bombo's. It is a very dry land. It has so little rain that there are no trees, and even grass is scarce. Hirfa's land is a *desert*.

The tent that you see in the picture is Hirfa's house. She lives in it all the year round. The tent is made of black woollen cloth that Hirfa's mother wove herself. Have you any reason to think that Hirfa and her family do not live in one place in the desert all the time?



Hirfa's father has a flock of sheep, a herd of goats, and six camels. From where do you think Hirfa's mother got the wool to make the tent-cloth?

Hirfa's people do not live in one place for more than a few weeks at a time. They camp wherever they find *pasturage*. Pasturage means things for their animals to eat. In some places in the desert there are patches of thin grass. In others there are low bushes with leaves that the animals will eat. When the pasturage in one place is used up, Hirfa's people move to another. Every time they move Hirfa rides on one of the big camels.

Have you noticed how Hirfa is dressed? If she wore as few

clothes as Bombo does, her skin would be badly sunburned.

In Bombo's land the air is always damp, and the trees shade the ground. In Hirfa's land the air is always dry, and there are no trees to give any shade. People are sunburned much more easily in the dry, hot sunshine of the desert than in the damp heat of the forest.

### Hirfa's desert home

The desert where Hirfa lives is in Arabia. Her people are called Bedouin Arabs. That means that they are Arabs who live in the desert.

Arabia is part of the largest continent in the world. The name of that great continent is

*Hirfa and her grandfather*



*In this picture Hirfa is in the centre, holding her pet lamb*





*There are miles and miles of sand-dunes where Hirfa lives*

Asia. Find Asia and Arabia in the left-hand picture of the globe at the front of this book. You will see that Arabia is near Africa, where Bombo lives.

The picture shows how some parts of the desert look. These are the parts where the wind has heaped up the sand in hills. The hills of sand are called sand-dunes. Have you ever seen any sand-dunes at the seaside?

In some parts of the desert there are hills of bare rock. In other parts there are the clumps of bushes and the patches of grass that supply pasturage for the animals that the Bedouins keep. Are you wondering why there are no trees? It is because trees

cannot grow where there is so little rain.

In the daytime the desert is very hot. The sand becomes so hot that Hirfa cannot go barefoot out - of - doors as Bombo does. At night the desert cools off quickly, and a chilly wind springs up. The nights are so cool that Hirfa sleeps rolled up in a woollen blanket.

#### **Do you know**

1. What people live in the desert of Arabia?
  2. Why there are no forests there?
  3. Why Hirfa needs more clothes than Bombo does?
  4. Why Hirfa lives in a tent instead of a house like yours?
  5. What animals her father owns?
- Draw pictures of some of them.



## Travelling in the desert

Let us pretend that we are on our way to visit Hirfa. From the coast of Arabia we have come part of the way by motor-bus. Now each one of us is riding a camel. How strange it feels to sit swaying backwards and forwards so high above the ground!

Camels are the best animals for travel in the desert. They do not mind the heat, and they can go without drinking any water for three or four days at a time. They can go without eating even longer. They walk easily in the sand because they have broad, flat hoofs.

Besides the camels that we are riding, there are others carrying

*Our guard is ready to mount his camel. His gun is covered to protect it from dust, but it can be unwrapped quickly in case of need*



*Here are some of the camels that carry our luggage*

our luggage. Walking by the side of each camel is an Arab driver. We have an Arab guard, too, because desert travellers are sometimes attacked by robbers.

We are carrying food and also blankets with us, for there are no inns or hotels in the desert. Each night we roll up in the blankets and sleep in tents which the drivers put up for us.

## Breakfast with Hirfa

Early one morning we reach the place in the desert where Hirfa's people are camping. The camp is made up of a number of tents set fairly far apart. Each tent is the home of one family.

Standing in front of the nearest tent are several men. One of them is Hirfa's father, and as we get off our camels he comes to

meet us. Hirfa joins him, and they take us to their own tent and invite us to have breakfast.

Hirfa's father builds a little fire of dry twigs on the ground outside the tent. Then he makes coffee in a copper coffee-pot. Hirfa runs into the tent, and brings out a jug of camel's milk and a bowl of dried dates. Her mother brings out two kinds of cheese. One kind is made of camels' milk and the other kind of goats' milk.

If we stay with Hirfa's people

for a while we shall find that all their meals are much alike. They live mostly on the milk of their animals, and on the cheese that they make from the milk. Now and then they buy a few dates and a little coffee and flour at the towns in the desert.

### Some things to do

1. Make a little paper model of a Bedouin camp in the desert.
2. Pretend that you are Hirfa talking to Tooktoo. Tell him why he could not travel on a dog sledge or in a boat in the desert.

*These are the men we see as we near the Bedouin camp. The boy at the right is Hirfa's older brother*







*Hirfa's mother is kneading dough for bread. She will bake the bread over a small fire of twigs*

### **Hirfa's tent**

After breakfast Hirfa takes us inside her tent. There are woollen rugs on the ground, but there is no furniture. The Bedouins sit and sleep on the ground.

In one corner of the tent are the big saddles for the camels. Thrown over the saddles are the sleeping-blankets. The blankets are made of camels' hair and sheep's wool.

In another corner are a few copper jugs and bowls and a copper coffee-pot. Close by are some bags made of sheepskins and goatskins. Hirfa's mother keeps her supplies of cheese and dates in these bags.

The Bedouins get along with just as few things as they can. That is because they have to move so often. The fewer things they have, the easier it is to move.

Hirfa's tent would never do for a house in Bombo's land, because it would not keep out the rain. Hirfa's people do not need shelter from rain. They need shade in the daytime, and shelter from the chilly wind at night. Then, too, they need houses that they can take with them when they move.

### **Work and play in the Bedouin camp**

Hirfa and the other children spend the day playing about the camp. They have no toys, but they play games and draw pictures in the sand with sticks.

While the children are at play, their mothers are at work. Hirfa's mother is making cheese from the milk of the camels and goats. The fresh milk would spoil quickly in the heat, but the cheese will keep a long time.

Hirfa's mother moulds the cheese into little cakes. Then she puts the cakes on top of the tent to dry in the sun. Later she will put them away in the skin bags in the tent.

When Hirfa's mother has flour, she often makes bread. Sometimes she churns goats' milk into



*This is the way Bedouin mothers weave cloth*

butter by shaking the milk in a goatskin bag.

Some of the women are spinning wool and hair to make thread. The wool they are using comes from the sheep, and the hair from the camels and goats. Other women are weaving cloth from the thread they have spun. They will use the cloth to make tents, blankets, and clothing.

Sometimes the Bedouins buy clothing in the towns, but they make much of their clothing, and all their tent-cloth and blankets, from the wool and hair of their animals.





*The sheep wander far and wide to find enough grass to eat*

*Hirfa helps to milk the goats*

### **See if you can tell why**

1. Tents make the best kind of houses for people who live as the Bedouin Arabs do.

2. The Bedouins could not live in the desert without their camels and sheep and goats.

### **Tending the sheep and goats**

Each Bedouin family has its own flock of sheep and herd of goats. Every morning some of the men drive the sheep and the goats to the desert pastures. Hirfa's brother and some of the other boys go with them.

The flocks and herds often wander long distances in a day.

The sheep go ahead, nibbling the grass almost down to the roots. The goats follow, eating leaves from the bushes and whatever the sheep have left of the grass.

The men and boys watch to see that none of the animals strays away and gets lost. Tending the animals is very important work. If anything should happen to them, the Bedouins would soon starve to death.

Late in the afternoon the men and boys bring the sheep and the goats back to the camp. Hirfa and the other little girls help their mothers to milk the goats before supper.

### Why the Bedouins move so often

The desert is so dry that Hirfa's people cannot have gardens as Bombo's people do. Wild animals are so scarce that they cannot get food by hunting as Tooktoo's people do. They can only live in the desert by keeping camels, sheep, and goats.

All the animals must have grass to eat and water to drink. The desert is a very dry place, but if there were no water at all, no one could live there.

In some places there are pools such as the one you see in the picture, but they are few and far between. The Bedouins get most of the water for themselves and their animals from wells that have

been dug here and there in the desert.

The grass in the desert pastures is poor, and there is only a thin scattering of bushes. There is not enough pasturage in any one place to feed the animals for long at a time. Often the pastures are very far apart.

You can understand now why Hirfa's people have to move so often. There is no place in the desert where they can settle down with their flocks and herds and have enough water and pasturage all the year round.

People who spend their lives moving from one place to another are called *nomads*. Hirfa's people are nomads of the desert.

*Hirfa's people often travel many miles before they find a pool like this*







*Some of the Bedouin fathers ride ahead to guard the caravan*

### **If you were a Bedouin child**

1. If you were a Bedouin boy, what could you do to help your father?
2. If you were a Bedouin girl, what could you do to help your mother?

### **On the way to new pastures**

When the Bedouins move, they travel in a long procession. The procession is called a *caravan*. First come the camels that carry the tents and the other luggage. Then come the camels that carry the children and their mothers. Last of all come the sheep and the goats.

Most of the men travel on foot. They drive the camels and the sheep and the goats. Hirfa's father and a few of the other men ride ahead on the fastest camels, with their guns slung over their shoulders. They are ready to protect the caravan if it should be attacked by robbers.

The caravan is on its way before sunrise. At first the desert air is clear and cool. Then, as the sun rises higher and higher in the sky, the day grows hotter and hotter. Even the breeze is hot, and it blows sand and dust into Hirfa's eyes.

About eleven o'clock the caravan stops. Neither the animals nor the people can travel further until the sun is lower in the sky, and the air is cooler again.

Late in the afternoon they are off once more. This time they will travel until midnight. Hirfa loves the evenings on the swaying back of the camel. Overhead the great dome of the sky glitters with thousands of stars. Not a sound is to be heard but the soft *thud thud* of the camels' hoofs. Before the caravan stops again, Hirfa is fast asleep.

Wherever the Bedouins find new pastures, they put up their tents. Then, when the pasturage has been used up, or they are short of water, they move again. It is not often that they can stay in one camp for more than a few weeks. All the year round they wander over the desert from one camping ground to another.

### Trading at the oases

Sometimes Hirfa's people visit one of the towns in the desert to do a little trading. They sell the wool and the sheepskins and the goatskins that they can spare. With the money they gain in this way, they buy coffee, flour, dates, and other things that they need.

The towns are in the *oases*. The oases are the only spots in the desert where there is enough water for trees to grow. The oases are very far apart.

The water in the oases comes from far beneath the ground. It comes out of the ground in springs. Where the springs do not give enough water, the people dig wells to get more.

• The trees in the oases are date-palms. The people gather the



*Picking dates from the date-palms*

dates from the trees, and dry them in the sun. They send some of the dried dates to far-away countries like our own.

Many of the people in the oases have gardens. They grow a little grain and a few vegetables and fruits. They get water from far beneath the ground. Some of it comes out of the ground in springs. But in most oases the springs do not give enough water, so the people dig deep wells to get more.

Hirfa likes to go into the town with her father when he does his





*Here are some of the little shops in an oasis town*



*This is one of the shop-keepers*

trading. She likes to watch the people in the streets, and to see all the things in the little shops.

Hirfa would not like to live in a house in one of the oasis towns. She loves the open desert and the long rides on the camel's back. She is so used to living in the desert that she would be unhappy anywhere else.

### **Just suppose**

Suppose that you were Hirfa or her brother instead of yourself.

1. What things that you like to eat would you have to do without? Why?
2. What kind of clothes would you have to wear? Why?
3. What kind of house would you have to live in? Why?

### **Can you answer these questions?**

1. What do we call a very dry land like Arabia?
2. Why does Hirfa never see any trees except when she visits an oasis?
3. Why do the Bedouins not have gardens as Bombo's people do?
4. Why isn't Hirfa's father a hunter like Tooktoo's father?
5. What foods do the Bedouins get from the animals they keep?
6. How do they get money to buy other things to eat?
7. How do they get cloth to make tents, blankets, and clothing.
8. Why do the Bedouins wander about in search of pasturage and water?
9. How do they travel?
10. Can you think of any way in which the Bedouins could live in the desert without their animals?



*Pedro's father is showing you one of his llamas*

#### 4. PEDRO

##### **A boy whose father keeps llamas**

Here is a picture of an animal that most little boys and girls have never seen. It has a long neck like a camel, and a thick coat of wool like a sheep. It is called a llama, and it is a very useful animal.

The people who keep llamas live among some of the highest mountains in the world. The mountains are called the Andes. They are in the continent of South America. Find them in the right-hand picture of the globe at the back of the book.





*Here are Pedro and his mother*

In this story you are going to read about a boy named Pedro. His people are South American Indians who live in the Andes Mountains. The man in the picture on page 43 is Pedro's father. He has a flock of llamas.

The llamas carry goods on their backs for Pedro's people, just as the camels do for Hirfa's people. They can climb up and down the steep mountain-sides easily because they are sure-footed and have sharp hoofs. Their hoofs cling to the rough rocks and keep them from slipping.

Besides his llamas, Pedro's father keeps some sheep and some al-

pacas. The alpacas have much longer wool than the sheep or the llamas.

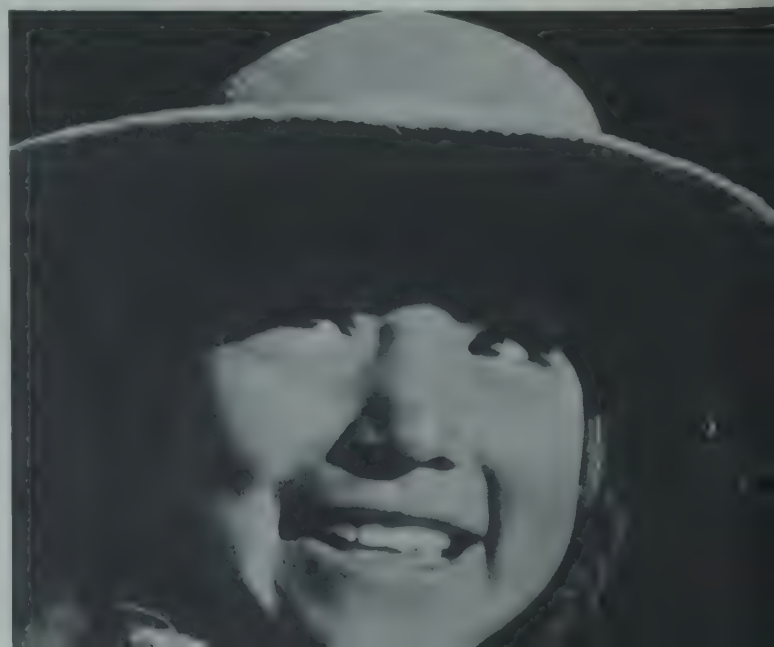
### **Pedro's clothes**

Now you are going to see Pedro himself. There he is, sitting on the ground beside his mother. Pedro is wearing a poncho. The poncho is a narrow woollen blanket. It has a slit in the middle of it so that Pedro can get his head through it.

All the Indian boys have ponchos, and so do their fathers. Pedro thinks his poncho is very pretty because it has bright-coloured stripes.

Under his poncho Pedro wears a woollen jacket. His trousers and his hat are of wool too. Often he wears a close-fitting

*Here is Pedro's older sister*





*Pedro's house is built of stone and sun-dried mud bricks, and has a tiled roof*

woollen cap under his hat. The cap has flaps on each side to keep his ears warm.

Pedro's mother wove the cloth for his poncho herself. Just now she is busy spinning wool. Hanging from her right hand is a spindle. She uses the spindle to twist the wool into yarn. How do you think she gets her wool?

No matter whether you visit Pedro in winter or in summer you will find him dressed just as he is in the picture. Do you think he lives in a cold land, or a warm land?

### **Pedro's house**

Pedro lives in the little house that you see in the picture. It is not much larger than Bombo's house in the Congo forest. It is about the same shape too, but Pedro's house is not built of wood like Bombo's. Wood is scarce in Pedro's land, for there are not many trees.

If you were to peep into the house, you would see nothing but a stove and some low platforms along the walls. The platforms are made of earth packed down hard. They are covered with



woollen blankets. Pedro's family use the platforms for seats and beds, just as Tooktoo's people use the snow benches in their igloos.

Why do you suppose Pedro's family do not have any furniture? It is because trees are so scarce in the land where they live. They cannot make furniture without wood, and they are too poor to buy furniture in the towns.

#### Some questions to answer

1. What animals does Pedro's father keep? Of what use are they?
2. What reason have you to think that Pedro's land is colder than Hirfa's land?
3. How can you tell from Pedro's house that his people do not live a wandering life as Hirfa's people do?

#### A high, cold land

Although Pedro's home is in the Andes Mountains, he does not live on a steep mountain-side. He lives on a *plain* which is between two long lines of mountains.

A plain is a stretch of rather flat land. In Great Britain we have plains that are near the sea. They are not much higher than the sea itself. We call them *lowland plains*.

The plain where Pedro lives is very high. It is nearly three times as high as the highest mountain-top in Great Britain. This very high plain is called a *plateau*.

*Here is a picture of the high plateau where Pedro lives. You can see the mountains in the distance*





*Behind the railway station we shall see some Indians with their llamas*

When you visited Tooktoo you found that his land is very cold because it is so far north. Pedro's land is cold because it is so high. It is not nearly so cold as the Far North, but it is cold enough for Pedro to need woollen clothes all the year round.

Pedro would be surprised if you were to tell him that summer is much warmer than winter. In his land the days are chilly almost all the year round, and the nights are always cold. Only at mid-day in summer is the sunshine really warm.

The nights are so cold that Pedro needs a warm bed. Every night in the year he sleeps on a llama skin with the thick wool left on it, and his mother covers him with woollen blankets.

### **How Pedro's father uses his llamas**

If we wish to visit Pedro we must first cross the ocean to South America in a big ship or an aeroplane. Then we must take a long trip in a railway train. We must ask the guard to put us down at the station which you see in the picture.

Some of the llamas at the station belong to Pedro's father. All of them have come down from the mountains with bags of silver ore on their backs. The ore is crushed rock with bits of silver in it. It is dug from mines deep beneath the ground in the Andes Mountains.

Perhaps you can think of some of the things that are made of silver. There are a great many of them, and tons and tons of



silver are needed to make them. That is why silver ore is mined in the Andes Mountains in far-away South America.

Many of the Indians work in the mines, digging the ore. Others, like Pedro's father, carry the ore down to the railway on the backs of their llamas. The men who own the mines pay the Indians for their work. So, you see, Pedro's father earns a little money with his llamas.

### Can you tell

1. What continent Pedro lives in?
2. What we call a very high plain like the one where Pedro lives?
3. Why Pedro's land is never very warm?

### Pedro's mother at work

Let us pretend that Pedro's father has taken us home with him. Pedro's mother is at work outside the house. She is weaving woollen cloth for a poncho or perhaps a shawl. The picture shows that she does her weaving by hand in much the same way as Hirfa's mother does.

Pedro's sister will tell you that their mother colours all the yarn herself. She dips it in dyes of bright red and yellow and green and blue. As she weaves, she uses yarn of one colour and then of another. That is the way she makes the bright stripes in the cloth.

*Spinning and weaving are part of the everyday work of the Indian mothers*





*Would you like to help Pedro to tend his father's alpacas?*

Pedro's mother is the cloth-maker for her family. She makes much of the cloth for their clothing. She weaves all the blankets that keep them warm at night.

The wool that Pedro's mother uses comes from the llamas and the sheep and the alpacas. Pedro's father clips it from the animals with sharp shears. When Pedro's mother has more wool than she needs, his father sells some of it.

#### **Some things to do**

1. Draw a picture of a llama.
2. Tell how the llamas earn money for Pedro's father. Then tell of another way in which the llamas are useful.

#### **How Pedro helps his father and mother**

Pedro is out on the plateau, a mile or so from the house. He is tending his father's sheep and alpacas. The animals are nibbling the grass, and Pedro is keeping watch over them. A chilly wind is blowing, but Pedro's poncho keeps him warm.

The picture shows the alpacas with one llama among them. Can you tell which animal is the llama? He has the longest ears.

There is plenty of grass on the plateau for the animals to eat. This tells us that there is more rain here than there is in Hirfa's land. Pedro's people do not have





*Washing quinoa seeds for Pedro's porridge*

to wander about, hunting for grass, as Hirfa's people do. They can live in the same place all the time, for there is grass enough near their homes to feed the animals all the year round.

Although there is plenty of grass on the plateau, there is hardly a tree to be seen. That is because there is not enough rain for trees to grow. Trees need more water than grass.

You will be surprised when you see what Pedro is doing while he

watches the alpacas and the sheep. He has a spindle like his mother's, and he is spinning wool. In Pedro's land the boys, as well as the girls, learn to spin when they are quite small. By tending the animals they help their fathers, and by spinning wool they help their mothers.

### **Pedro comes home for supper**

Just before sunset Pedro brings the sheep and alpacas home. He drives them into the corral for the night. The corral is an open space with a stone wall round it. Pedro's father has already put the llamas in the corral.

Pedro's mother is just starting to get supper. She is washing the seeds of a plant called *quinoa*. Later she will cook the seeds in boiling water to make porridge. Quinoa porridge tastes something like our own oatmeal porridge.

With his porridge, Pedro will eat some hard bread. The bread is made of quinoa, too. Pedro's mother makes her own flour by pounding the quinoa seeds. When she does her baking she makes enough bread to last a number of weeks.



*Pedro's father is ploughing a field on the high plateau with a pair of oxen*

To-morrow night Pedro may have *chuño* for supper. Chuño is the Indian name for dried potato. Pedro's mother cooks the chuño in boiling water. Sometimes she cooks meat with it.

Pedro likes meat, but he does not have it very often. His family need the wool from their animals and so they do not kill very many of them for food. Now and then Pedro has stewed fowl, for his mother keeps a few chickens.

#### **Farming on the plateau**

Now that you know what Pedro has to eat, perhaps you have guessed that his people do a little farming. They grow potatoes and quinoa. 1589

The picture shows how Pedro's father ploughs his land in the spring. He is too poor to buy a plough like the ones that the farmers in our country use. He makes the furrows for the seeds with a sharp-pointed stick drawn





*The potatoes are left in the field to dry*

by oxen. Then Pedro and his mother plant the seeds and cover them with earth.

Autumn is the time for gathering the crops. Pedro's father cuts the quinoa stalks with a sharp knife. Then he lays them on a big blanket spread on the ground. With a heavy stick he beats the stalks to knock off the seeds.

Getting the seeds off the stalks of plants is called threshing. In our country we have machines to do the threshing. But Pedro's people do not have any machines. They do all their farm work with their own hands.

After Pedro's father has gathered his quinoa, he digs his potatoes. He does not store them away as soon as they are dug. He leaves

them lying on the ground. They dry in the sun and the wind in the daytime, and freeze in the cold at night. After a long time they get so dry that they will keep for years without spoiling.

Quinoa and potatoes are almost the only crops that Pedro's people can grow on the high, cold plateau. The summer weather is not sunny enough for wheat to ripen, and there is not enough rain for oats. The nights are too cold and frosty for vegetables and fruits.

### **Some things to explain**

1. Why does Pedro eat more chuño and quinoa bread and porridge than anything else?
2. Why do Pedro's people not wander about with their animals as Hirfa's people do?

*This is the way the baby goes to town*





*Here are some of the Indians on their way to the market square in the town*

### **Pedro goes to town**

To-day is market day, and Pedro's family are getting ready to go to town. Pedro's father has led one of the llamas out of the corral. Now he is tying two bags of alpaca wool on its back. He is going to sell the wool to a merchant in the town.

Pedro's mother has put on her best hat and her brightest-coloured shawl. On her arm she carries a basket. In the basket are two chickens. If she can sell the chickens, she will have money to

buy some dyes that she needs to colour her yarn.

Off they go, with Pedro's father driving the llama. Pedro's baby sister rides on her mother's back. Pedro and his older sister are big enough to walk all the way to the town.

When they reach the town, they go straight to the market square. The square is already crowded with Indian families who have come in from the country. Many of the men have brought wool to sell, just as Pedro's father has done.





*This is how the mothers spend market day*

The women sit on the edge of the pavement round the square. They spread out the things they wish to sell, so that the people who pass by may see them. Sometimes they exchange things with one another, but the townspeople are their best customers.

Market day is play-day for Pedro and the other Indian children. We shall say good-bye to them as they are playing together in the square, but we shall not forget that these little friends in South America spend more time at work than at play.

### **If you were visiting Pedro**

1. Would you need your summer clothes or your winter clothes? Why?
2. What would Pedro's mother give you to eat?
3. Would you like the kind of bed you would have to sleep in?
4. What would you like best to do while you were visiting Pedro?

### **Can you answer these questions?**

1. What kind of house does Pedro live in?
2. Why isn't it built of wood like Bombo's house?
3. Why wouldn't a tent like Hirfa's be a good house for Pedro?
4. Why does Pedro's mother spend so much time spinning and weaving?
5. How does she get her wool?
6. Do you think Bombo or Hirfa would like to wear clothes like Pedro's? Why not?
7. What kinds of work does Pedro's father do?
8. How do his llamas help him?
9. Why are potatoes and quinoa almost the only things that Pedro's father can grow on his farm land?
10. How does Pedro help his parents?





*Would you like to pick cotton with Ahmad and Zakia and their friends?*

## 5. AHMAD

### **A boy who picks cotton**

The boy on the right in this picture is Ahmad. In his hand he is holding some fluffy white cotton. He has just picked the cotton from a cotton plant. In the middle of the picture, almost hidden among the cotton plants, is Ahmad's sister, Zakia.

The field of cotton belongs to the children's father. In the spring he ploughed the field and planted cotton seeds. It is autumn now, and the plants are full-grown. The new seed pods have opened, and you can see the snowy white fibre that makes the cotton plant so useful.





*From our aeroplane we can see the green fields along the river*

Ahmad and Zakia are not playing in the cotton-field. They are working there. They are helping to pick the cotton fibre from the plants. Boys and girls with nimble fingers can do this work as well as grown-ups.

You know now that Ahmad's father is a farmer. Besides cotton, he grows wheat and maize and vegetables. The weather is so warm that he goes on farming the whole year round. He does not have to stop in the winter-time as farmers in colder lands do.

Here is a surprise for you. *The land where Ahmad lives is very dry.* Sometimes a whole year goes by without a drop of rain. How do you suppose Ahmad's father can be a farmer in such a dry land?

#### **Seeing Ahmad's land from an aeroplane**

The name of the very dry country where Ahmad and Zakia live is Egypt. Egypt is a part of Africa. Do you know a boy who lives in a part of Africa that is very rainy?

Let us pretend that we are flying over Egypt in an aeroplane. At first all that we can see below us is yellowish-brown sand and bare rock. It looks like Hirfa's land, and it *is* like Hirfa's land. It is a great desert.

Now we see a long, narrow band of green running through the desert. It is a strip of green fields with a river flowing through it. The name of the river is the Nile. Along its banks there are little villages with palm trees round them.

The strip of green, with its fields and villages, is a long oasis. Millions of people live there, and most of them are farmers. Somewhere in this great oasis we shall find Ahmad and Zakia.

### "Father Nile"

In the left-hand picture of the globe at the back of the book, find Egypt and the river Nile. You will see that the Nile is a very long river. It begins in the rainy part of Africa, and flows across the great desert to the sea.

When you visited Hirfa you found that water from springs and wells makes the oases in Arabia. In Egypt the river Nile makes the oasis. It brings water to this very dry part of Africa from the rainy part. Because it waters the thirsty land of Egypt, the people can have farms and gardens.

Great ditches have been dug to carry water from the Nile to the farm lands beyond its banks. They are called *canals*. You can

*Ahmad lives in a little village like this on the banks of the Nile*







*The market-place is crowded with people and donkeys*

### Do you know

1. What a desert is?
2. What an oasis is?
3. What makes the long oasis in Egypt?
4. Why deserts are brown and oases green?
5. Why Ahmad's father can be a farmer in the dry land of Egypt?
6. Why he can grow crops the whole year round?
7. Why the Egyptians call the Nile "Father Nile"?

### In Ahmad's village

see two of the canals in the aeroplane picture on page 56. Little ditches, branching from the canals, carry the water straight to the fields.

The Egyptians call the river "Father Nile" because it takes such good care of them. If it should stop flowing, the green oasis would soon be as bare and brown as the desert. The crops would die of thirst, and the people would soon starve.

"Father Nile" never does stop flowing. For thousands of years it has been bringing to Egypt the precious water that makes the crops grow and gives the people food.

Here we are in the market-place in Ahmad's village. The market-place is filled with people. Their clothes remind us of the Bedouins, only they are made of cotton instead of wool. There is no need for woollen clothing in this warm land of Egypt. The hot sun beats down all day long, and the nights are not so chilly as they are in the desert of Arabia where Hirfa lives.

Many of the people in the market-place have things to sell. Some have sacks of wheat and maize. Others have onions and tomatoes. Others, again, have baskets of beans. Wandering about among the people are the



*Ahmad's little flat-roofed house faces the river in a grove of palm trees*

little donkeys which have brought the grain and vegetables to market on their backs.

Even if you had not seen the green fields from your aeroplane, you would know by looking round the market-place that Ahmad's people are farmers. How would you know it?

#### **Something to explain**

Explain why Ahmad's people wear cotton clothes all the year round.

#### **Ahmad's house**

Ahmad and Zakia live in the little house at the left in the picture. The walls are made of mud bricks, and the roof is flat. Sloping roofs are not needed in a land where it seldom rains.

Ahmad's father built the house himself. He made the bricks out of mud from the river bank, and dried them in the sun. For the roof he used the trunks of palm trees. He covered the trunks





*Zakia is grinding wheat to make flour*

with layers of palm leaves, and plastered the leaves with mud.

The house has three rooms. In the tiny kitchen Ahmad's mother has a baking-oven made of sun-dried mud. For firewood she burns dry cotton-stalks and maize-stalks. In the other two rooms there are some low bedsteads and tables. Ahmad's family eat their meals sitting on mats on the floor.

The roof of the house has a low wall round it. Ahmad's family use the roof as their store-room. They keep their baskets of grain there, and their vegetables, and their bundles of cotton-stalks and maize-stalks.

Ahmad's house would never do in a rainy land like the Congo forest, where Bombo lives. The

rain would not run off the roof. Worse than that, the rain would soon soften the bricks. Then the walls of the house would fall and the roof would cave in.

### **Out in the fields with Ahmad**

Just outside Ahmad's village are the fields where the people grow their crops. Each family has a farm there. All the farms are very small.

Altogether, there are miles and miles of farm-land in the long oasis of the Nile. Why, then, do you suppose the farms are so very small? It is because there are so many millions of people living in the oasis that there is only a little farm-land for each family.

To-day Ahmad is out in the fields with his father. All the cotton has been picked and sent away to be sold. Now the time has come to gather the maize. The seeds of the maize grow in bundles called "ears". Ahmad is helping his father to gather the ears from the stalks.

Ahmad and his father have their donkey out in the maize-field with them. The donkey will carry the maize home in

baskets on his back. He will have to make a number of trips from the field to the house, and Ahmad will drive him to and fro.

Later, the little donkey will carry home the stalks of the maize plants and the cotton plants. Do you remember how Ahmad's mother uses the stalks?

### At home with Zakia

While Ahmad is out in the fields helping his father, Zakia is at home helping her mother. The picture on the opposite page shows what Zakia is doing. She is grinding wheat seeds between two stones to make flour. She often grinds maize in the same way to make cornmeal. Zakia's mother has taught her how to make bread from the wheat-flour and the cornmeal.

When Ahmad and his father come home at noon, they will find a meal of cornbread and beans and onions ready for them. Nearly all their food comes from their own little farm. For sweets they eat dates and other fruits which they buy in the market-place.

In the afternoon Zakia and her mother are going down to the



*The mothers use "Father Nile" as their laundry*

river to wash the clothes. Many of the other women and girls will be there doing their washing too.

Zakia is often sent by her mother to get water from the river. Do you think you could balance a jar of water on your head as Zakia does?

Zakia loves to see the boats on the river. They go sailing up and down, carrying goods from one place to another in the long oasis.

### Some questions to answer

1. Why has Ahmad's house a flat roof?
2. Why wouldn't Ahmad's house be safe in Bombo's land?
3. Why is it safe in Egypt?
4. Why is Ahmad's father's farm so small?
5. How do Ahmad and Zakia help their father and mother?





*The bullocks pull the old-fashioned wooden plough*

### **More work in the fields**

Now Ahmad's father is ploughing the fields where the cotton and the maize grew in the summer-time. His plough is made of wood with an iron blade on the end of it. The animals which are pulling the plough are bullocks.

Ahmad's father is getting ready to plant the crops that he grows in the winter-time. There will be some wheat, and some beans and onions and other vegetables for food for his family. There will also be some clover to feed his donkey and his bullocks.

Ahmad's father gathers his winter crops in the spring. He cuts his wheat with a sharp knife, just as Pedro's father cuts his quinoa. Do you remember how

Pedro's father threshes his quinoa? Ahmad's father threshes his wheat in a different way.

He lays the wheat-stalks on a piece of bare, hard ground. Then he hitches his bullocks to a heavy wooden sledge. The bullocks drag the sledge round and round over the wheat-stalks. The sledge crushes the stalks and knocks the seeds off them. Ahmad likes to sit on the sledge and drive the bullocks.

Ahmad's father uses the wheat-stalks to feed his animals. He



*Ahmad helps to cut his father's wheat*

cuts the stalks in small pieces by driving over them a sledge fitted with sharp iron discs.

Soon after Ahmad's father has gathered his winter crops of wheat and vegetables and clover, he



*This is how Ahmad's father threshes his wheat and cuts up the stalks*

ploughs his fields again. It is time now to plant the summer crops of cotton and maize.

If Ahmad's father could grow crops only in the summer-time, he could never get along with such a small farm. He can grow crops in winter as well as in summer because the winter weather is warm. By farming all the year round he can grow enough food for his family, and enough cotton to earn a little money.

#### **Some things to do**

1. Name the crops which Ahmad's father grows for food for his family.
2. Name the other crops which he grows and say how they are used.
3. Draw pictures of some of the things you could see in Egypt.

#### **Watering the crops**

On pages 57-58 you read about the canals which carry water from the Nile to the farm-lands in Egypt. The little ditches which branch from the canals carry the water to the fields.

If there is a river near your home, you know that sometimes the water is high, and sometimes it is low. It is the same with the Nile. The water is highest in the Nile in the autumn, and lowest late in the spring.

In places along the Nile big dams have been built to hold back part of the water and store it for use as it is needed. Through gates in the dams water can be let out to keep the canals filled. Usually there is enough stored



water to feed the canals even when the river is low. But when there is not enough, the water in some of the canals is too low to run into the ditches in the fields. Then the farmers have to lift the water into the ditches. How do you suppose they do it?

The pictures show two ways of lifting the water. In the first picture a bullock is turning a water-wheel round and round. The turning of the wheel lifts jars of water from the canal and empties them into the ditches in the field. The people of Ahmad's village have a number of water-wheels.

In the second picture two men are lifting water with a pair of *shadufs*. The farmers of Ahmad's village use the shadufs when the water is too low to be lifted by the water-wheels.

Each shaduf is a long pole that moves like a see-saw. Hanging by a rope from one end of it is a bucket. The men pull down on the rope to lower the bucket into the canal and fill it with water.

Fastened to the other end of the pole is a lump of dried mud. The lump of mud is heavier than the bucketful of water. So, when the men let go of the rope, the pole tips and lifts the bucket of

*Lifting water to a maize field with a water-wheel turned by a bullock*



water. Then the men empty the water into a ditch in the field.

Sometimes the farmers have to use the shadufs for weeks at a time. It is hot, hard work, but it must be done, or the crops will die of thirst. How glad the farmers are when the water in the canal rises high enough to run into the ditches again!

### **A very old country**

Egypt is a very old country, and the people have been farmers for thousands of years. Long, long ago the Egyptians worshipped many different gods. One of their greatest gods was "Father Nile". They called him Osiris in those days, and they worshipped him because he brought the precious water for growing the crops that gave them their food.

While you are in Egypt you will see some of the wonderful temples where the people of long ago worshipped their gods. You will go to see the great pyramids on the desert edge of the green oasis. The pyramids were built for tombs, or burial places, for some of the kings and queens of Egypt.



*Lifting water with a pair of shadufs*

On the walls in some of the tombs you will see pictures of the Egyptians of long ago. One picture shows a man ploughing a field with a pair of bullocks. Another shows a donkey carrying grain on his back. Still another shows some men lifting water from the Nile with a shaduf.

These very old pictures will remind you of the sights you have seen on Ahmad's farm. The Egyptian farmers still live and work much as they did long, long ago.





*The Egyptian pyramids were built thousands of years ago*

### **Can you answer these questions?**

1. Why are there no forests in Egypt as there are in the part of Africa where Bombo lives?
2. How can the Egyptians have farms in such a very dry land?
3. How does water from the River Nile reach the fields where the crops are grown?
4. Do you think the Congo River is as important to Bombo's people as the Nile is to Ahmad's people? Give a reason for your answer.

5. Are the farms in Egypt large or small? Why?

6. How can Ahmad's people get enough food from such small farms?

7. Why can they grow crops in winter as well as in summer?

8. Why cannot we grow crops all the year round in our country?

9. What animals does Ahmad's father keep? Why does he keep them?

10. Why doesn't he need to keep animals which supply wool, as Pedro's father does?

11. How did Ahmad's father get the materials for building his house?

12. Would Ahmad's house be a good one for you to live in? Why not?

13. Why do Hirfa's people not live in houses of sun-dried brick in the desert as Ahmad's people do in the Nile oasis?

14. Why are Ahmad's people not nomads like Hirfa's people?

### **Something to do**

Look at the pictures at the bottom of this page. They are small copies of some of the drawings in the old tombs in Egypt.

Say what kinds of work you think the men and the animals in the pictures are doing.





*Roshik is a Bengali boy*

*This is Moti, Roshik's older sister*

## 6. ROSHIK

### **A boy who lives in Pakistan**

This little brown-skinned boy is named Roshik. He lives in Pakistan. Roshik's people are called Bengalis. They live in a part of Pakistan named Bengal. Perhaps you know that Pakistan is a part of Asia. What little girl have you visited who lives in another part of Asia?

Roshik's mother is cutting up a fish to cook for dinner. Look carefully at the picture, and you will see that she is holding the knife between the toes of her right foot.

Behind Roshik you can see a little hut. The hut has one room. Roshik's family use it for their kitchen and their dining-room. They have another hut which they use for their bedroom. You can

see a little of the bedroom hut on the right in the picture. Each hut has a porch on one side.

Look at the roofs of the huts. Are they flat, or are they sloping? Do you think Roshik lives in a rainy land, or in a dry land?

### **A land of three seasons**

As you know, we divide our year into four parts — spring, summer, autumn, and winter. We call them the four seasons of the year. Roshik's people divide the year into three seasons. They call them the cold season, the hot season, and the rainy season.

The picture of Roshik was taken in the cold season. Does he look as if he were dressed for cold weather?





*If you lived in Bengal, you would go about in boats like these*

From the way Roshik is dressed, it is easy to guess that the cold season in Bengal is not cold at all. It is as warm as our summer. The Bengalis call it cold because the rest of the year is even warmer.

The hot season in Bengal is much hotter than any weather we ever have in the British Isles. It is so hot that if you were there you would not want to run or jump or play any outdoor games. Roshik does not mind the heat. He is used to it.

The rainy season is hot too. How it does rain! For three months it rains so much that the rivers overflow their banks. The

fields are changed into lakes and ponds, and the people can go sailing right over them in boats.

The houses in this rainy land are on mounds of earth which are higher than the fields. Before the people can build their houses, they have to build the mounds. If the houses were on land as low as the fields, they would be flooded with water in the rainy season.

In the cold season there is not much rain. Even then Bengal is a watery land. It is a great flat plain with many rivers and streams. The rivers and streams take the place of roads, and the people go about in boats.

### Dinner with Roshik's family

Let us pretend that we have travelled across the great flat plain of Bengal to Roshik's home. We have chosen the cold season for our visit. Can you think of any reason why?

We have reached Roshik's home just in time for dinner. The boys will have dinner with Roshik and his father. The girls will wait until the boys have finished. Then they will have dinner with Roshik's mother and his sister, Moti. In Roshik's land the boys and girls do not eat their meals together.

We shall have dinner in the hut that Roshik's family use for their kitchen and their dining-room. There is no furniture in the room, but there is a clean sheet on the floor. How strange it seems to sit on a sheet on the floor to eat a meal!

First Moti and her mother bring us boiled rice and a thick soup of peas and beans. After that we have some vegetables and fish cooked with yellow curry powder. Curry powder is a seasoning. Roshik and Moti are very fond of it. We do not like



*Moti helps to prepare the food for cooking*

it as much as these little Bengali friends do, for it burns our tongues like red pepper.

Roshik's family have rice at every meal, and they eat fish and vegetables at least once a day. They grow the rice and the vegetables themselves. They catch the fish, too. Roshik often goes fishing with his father.

### Some questions to answer

1. What are our four seasons of the year?
2. How do Roshik's people divide the year into seasons?
3. Why doesn't Roshik need warm clothes in the cold season?
4. Why do Roshik's people go about in boats so much?



### Seeing Roshik's home

After dinner we shall have a chance to see more of Roshik's home. The walls of the huts are made of matting. The matting is woven of the stems of a tall, coarse kind of grass. You can see some of the stems in the picture. The man is splitting them to make flat strips for weaving the matting.

The roofs of the huts are sloping. The kitchen roof is made of iron. The roof of the bedroom hut is thatched with rice straw. The iron roof is safer because it will not catch fire, but the thatched roof is cooler.

The huts give Roshik's family just the kind of shelter they need in this warm, rainy land. The walls of matting keep out the rain and let in the air. The rain runs off the roofs as easily as off umbrellas.

In the kitchen hut there is a fireplace where Roshik's mother does her cooking. The only other objects there are some brass pots for cooking and some large jars made of clay. The jars are for storing rice and vegetables.

In the bedroom hut there are low beds, but no other furniture. The beds must be hard, for they

*This is the hut which Roshik's family use for their bedroom*





*The round building by the pond is a storehouse for rice*

are made of wooden planks, and the mattresses are nothing but mats of woven grass. Hanging from the roof are shelves of matting. The shelves are for the sheets and for the cotton clothing which Roshik's family wear.

There is one more hut, a little apart from the others. Here Roshik's father keeps his two bullocks. He uses his bullocks in his farm work, just as Ahmad's father does.

The huts are built round a courtyard. On one side of the courtyard is a pond. Moti and her mother wash the dishes and the clothes and the sheets in

the pond. Almost every sunny morning Moti's mother does some laundry work.

Close to the huts there is a vegetable garden. There are also some palm trees and some fruit trees. If we were to visit Roshik at the right time of year, he would be able to give us some sweet, juicy mangoes from the mango trees.

### **Some things to do**

1. Tell all you can about Roshik's home.
2. Draw a picture of one of the huts.
3. Explain why matting is a good material for the walls.
4. Explain why the roofs are sloping.
5. Explain why the roof of the kitchen hut is made of iron.

*This is the way the dishes are washed*







*Here is Roshik's father with his plough and his bullocks*

### **Work in the hot season**

The hot season in Bengal begins in March and lasts until the middle of June. There are thunderstorms every few days now, and the time for ploughing the fields has come.

Every morning at sunrise Roshik's father goes off to the fields where he is going to grow rice. He takes his plough and his bullocks with him. The picture shows that his plough

is much like the one that Ahmad's father uses.

Day after day Roshik's father ploughs his rice fields. With each thunderstorm the fields get more and more muddy. They must be very wet and muddy before Roshik's father can safely plant his rice crop.

About ten o'clock each morning, Roshik takes his father's breakfast of boiled rice to him in the fields. By noon it is too

hot to work any longer, and Roshik's father goes home. He and Roshik bathe in the pond before dinner.

After dinner Roshik's father sleeps and rests for two or three hours. This is the hottest part of the day, too hot for work. In the late afternoon, when the air is cooler, he goes back to the fields again and ploughs until dark.

Besides rice, Roshik's father grows jute. Jute is grown for the fibre in the stems. The fibre is used to make the coarse kind of cloth which we call sacking. The jute is planted at the beginning of the hot season, and the rice towards the end.

Roshik's father grows rice for food for his family. He grows jute for the same reason that Ahmad's father grows cotton. He sells the fibre, and in that way he earns money.

In the middle of June the rainy season begins. The water rises in the fields, but it does not drown the rice and the jute. They grow so fast in the heat and the rain that they keep their heads above the rising water.



*This is how Roshik's father and his neighbours cut their jute*

#### **Work and play in the rainy season**

Before the rainy season is over, the jute is ready to be gathered. Roshik's father and the other farmers wade into the water in the jute fields and cut the stems with sharp knives. Often they work in water above their waists.

The farmers tie the stems in bundles, and soak them in the water for about three weeks to soften them. Then the women strip the fibre from the stems and dry it in the sun. After that, the fibre is ready to be sold.





*Would you like to go on a punting-trip with Roshik?*

After the jute has been sold, there is no more farm work to be done until the rainy season is over. Now Roshik's father has plenty of time to go fishing, and he nearly always takes Roshik with him. Roshik is learning how to catch fish in nets and how to set traps for them. When he is a little older, he will learn how to catch fish by spearing them.

Roshik's father catches fish in the streams all the year round. The best fishing is in the rainy season, when there is water everywhere. Do you see now why Roshik has so much fish to eat?

The rainy season is holiday time, too. If Roshik's father gets a good price for his jute, he has enough money to hire a boat like those in the picture. Then he takes his family off on a punting-trip. They take rice and vegetables with them, and they catch fish each day as they go along.

They cook and eat their meals on the boat, and they sleep in the little cabin at one end. Now and then they stop to visit some of their friends. Roshik and Moti think a punting-trip is the best kind of holiday.

### Can you answer these questions?

1. When is the hot season in Bengal? What do we call that time of year here at home?
2. What crops does Roshik's father plant in the hot season?
3. Why does he grow those crops?
4. What makes the crops grow so fast?

### Gathering the rice crop

After the rainy season is over, Roshik's father gathers his rice crop. The rice-stalks are so tall that he cuts off only the tops, where the seeds grow. He cuts them off with a sickle. Perhaps you know that a sickle is a knife shaped like a hook.

Roshik's father threshes his rice in the courtyard at home. He spreads the stalks on the ground and drives his bullocks round and round over them. As the bullocks' hoofs crush the stalks, the seed falls off.

*Roshik is learning to catch fish in nets*



*Here is Roshik's father cutting his rice*

Moti and her mother gather up the seeds in baskets. Their part of the work is to winnow the rice. Winnowing the rice means getting the dust out of it.

Moti is very clever at winnowing. She puts a few handfuls of rice in a light tray made of matting. Then she tosses the rice in the air. As it comes down she catches it in the tray again. While the rice is in the air, the wind blows the dust out of it.

Each little rice seed has a husk on it. Before Moti's mother can cook the rice, she must pound the seeds to get the husks off. Husking rice is part of her daily work.



Here is a picture of Moti with her winnowing tray. Beside her are the big bowl and the *dekki* which her mother uses to husk the rice.

The *dekki* is something like a see-saw. The log at the end of it goes up and down and pounds the rice in the bowl. Pounding knocks the husks off the seeds. Then Moti winnows the rice again so that the wind will blow away the husks.

You will remember that Roshik's father cut only the tops of the rice-stalks in the field.

Later he will cut the rest of the stalks. He gives the stalks to his bullocks for food. And so, you see, the rice crop gives Roshik's family food for themselves and for their animals.

### See if you can explain

1. Why rice is the most important crop that Roshik's father grows.
2. How the rice is threshed, winnowed, and husked.
3. How Roshik helps his father to get food for the family.
4. How Roshik's father earns money.
5. Why Roshik's family would rather own a boat than a motor-car.

*The dekki for husking rice is on the porch of the kitchen hut*





*Bringing home rice-stalks for the bullocks*

### **Bengali boys and girls**

Bengali boys spend most of their time with their fathers. They help their fathers in the fields, and they go fishing with them. They go to market with their fathers too.

Roshik likes to go to market with his father. Sometimes they walk, and sometimes they go in their boat. At the market Roshik always finds other boys to play with.

Part of the work of the boys is to take the bullocks out to graze on the grass that grows along the streams. The boys play games together while the bullocks are grazing. But they must not forget the bullocks while they are play-

ing. They must see that the animals do not get into the fields and eat the crops.

The girls stay at home and help their mothers. Moti helps her mother to cook the meals and wash the dishes. She helps her to winnow and husk the rice too. Every day she and her mother go to the well where all the families in the neighbourhood get their drinking-water. Going to the well is fun, for she meets the other little girls there.

Moti has time to play, too. She and the other girls have pretty dolls made of painted clay. They play with their dolls and have other games together.

*The girls and their mothers are getting the daily supply of drinking-water from the well*





**Can you answer these questions about Roshik and his country?**

1. How is the weather in Bengal different from our weather?
2. How is it different from the weather in Egypt?
3. What could you tell both Roshik and Ahmad about our weather which would surprise them?
4. What work does Roshik's father do in the hot season?
5. Why doesn't he have to water his crops while they are growing, as Ahmad's father does?

6. Why do farmers in our country not grow rice as Bengali farmers do?

7. Why is it easy for Roshik's family to get fish to eat?

8. At what time of year would you like best to visit Roshik? Why?

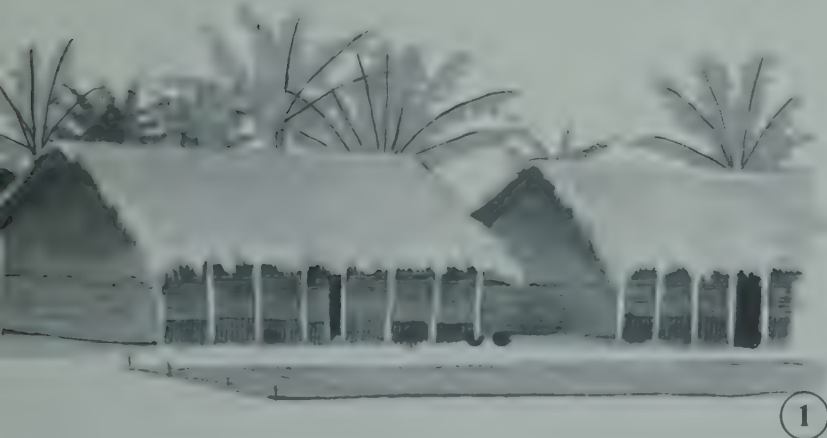
9. If you were going to visit Roshik in the cold season, what kind of clothes would you take? Why?

10. Why don't the Bengalis live in flat-roofed houses built of mud-brick, as the Egyptians do?

11. What do Roshik and Moti do to help their father and mother?

**GENERAL QUESTIONS**

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**Some questions about houses**

See if you can answer these questions about the pictures of six different houses:

1. Which house is Bombo's? What is it made of? Why is it a good house for Bombo? Why wouldn't it do for a house in our country?

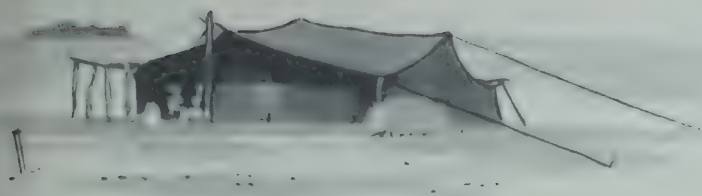
2. Which house is Pedro's? What is it made of? Why isn't it built of wood? Why does Pedro need a warmer house than Bombo?

3. Who lives in the house in picture 2? Does he live in it the whole year round? Why not? What kind of house does Tooktoo live in during the summer, and why?

4. Which house is Ahmad's? Of what material are the walls? Why has it a flat roof? Why wouldn't it be a safe house in our country?

5. Who lives in the tent in picture 3? What is the tent made of, and where did the material come from? Why is a tent better for a Bedouin family than a house like yours?





③

6. Whose house is shown in picture 6? Of what material are the walls made? How are the walls and the roof suited to the weather in the land where Roshik lives? Would Roshik's house be a good one for you to live in? Why not?

7. Draw a picture of your own house. Of what materials is it made? How is it suited to your needs for shelter?



④

### Some questions about food

1. Which boy whom you have met in this book has more meat and blubber to eat than anything else? What work does his father do to get them? Why doesn't this boy ever drink milk or eat vegetables as you do?

2. Which boy and his sister eat more rice and fish than anything else? How does their father get these foods for them?

3. What little girl has milk to drink and cheese to eat every day? Does she drink the same kind of milk as you do?

Why not? Why do you suppose her father does not keep cows?

4. Which boy eats chuño and quinoa bread and porridge? What work does his father do to get these foods? Why doesn't he eat oatmeal porridge and bread made of wheat-flour, as you do?



⑤

5. Which boy has meat to eat because his father is a hunter, and vegetables because his mother has a garden? Why doesn't this boy eat beef and lamb as you do?

6. Which boy and his sister eat more vegetables, and bread made from wheat-flour and cornmeal, than anything else? How does their father get these foods?

7. How do your parents get food for you? Why can you have more kinds of food than any of the children whom you have read about in this book?



⑥





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### Some questions about clothes

1. How are your winter clothes different from your summer clothes, and why?

2. Suppose you were going to visit Bombo, and then Ahmad, Hirfa, and Roshik. Would you take your winter clothes, or your summer clothes? Why?

3. Which would you take if you were going to visit Pedro? Why?

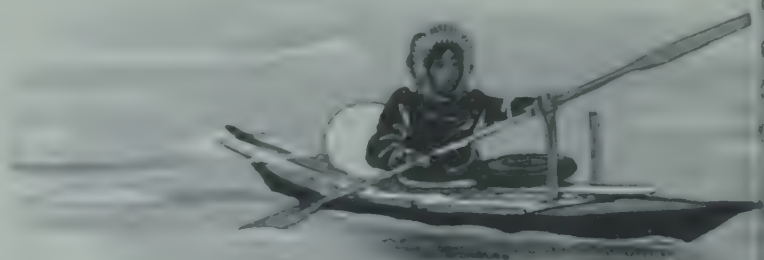


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4. Why wouldn't your clothes do to wear on a visit to Tooktoo?

5. What special kind of clothes would you need in the Far North? Why?

6. Do you think that any of the children whom you have met in this book would rather wear your clothes than their own? Give reasons for your answer to this question.



### Something to do

Each picture on this page shows something that one of the children in this book often sees. Find the picture which shows something that Bombo sees and tell all you can about it. Then do the same for Tooktoo, Hirfa, Pedro, Ahmad, and Roshik.





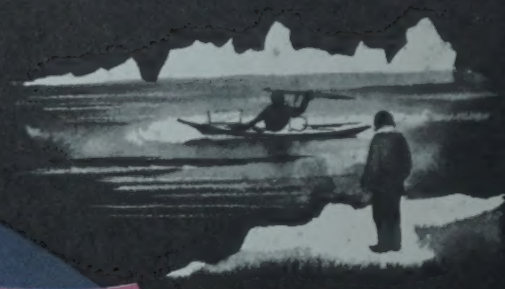




This picture of the globe shows where BOMBO,  
HIRFA, AHMAD, and ROSHIK live



North



*This is Baffin  
Island where  
TOOKTOO lives*

West

East



*This is the  
high plateau  
where PEDRO lives*

South

Here is another picture of the globe which shows  
where TOOKTOO and PEDRO live



